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KEEPIN' *Central* POSTED

CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE and ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1

FEBRUARY 1981

NO. 2

1st

THE HOLT'S

Column

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Ray and Barbara Holt

Central Florida Dancers, your positive response to this publication has been overwhelming to say the least. Best of all, this is only the beginning.

Great things are happening! Our Association is growing by "leaps and bounds" with even better times to come. Our Florida Pirates Festival, a "Salute to America", will be exciting. We'll be dancing in the largest hall at Exposition Park, Orlando. Our patriotism will ring out loud and clear. Our country's colors will never be brighter as the Color Guard from the Navy Orlando Training Center leads the Grand March at our Saturday night dance. And those skits — they'll have the class of an extravaganza!

Our next Association Dance on May 30, 1981, will be held in the big new hall at the Eustis R. V. Park where there is a nice kitchen for our traditional Potluck Dinner. Then that all important event — Election of Officers for 1981-'82! *Bob Bland* will be our caller for the dance. Bob hails from DeLand. *Jack Jenkins* from Leesburg will cue the rounds. (continued on page 2)

SHE NAMED IT

WE HAVE A WINNER!

The winner in our "NAME IT" contest is *Bev Whitney* of St. Cloud. Bev and her husband, John, are members of the Wagon Wheels Square Dance Club in St. Cloud.

Bev's entry, "Keepin' Posted" won her a \$25.00 cash prize and a year's FREE Association membership for her and John.

Congratulations, Bev, and thank you!

Our "NAME IT" contest was a real success judging from the number of entries we received. The names submitted were all very good and the choice was difficult. It was apparent to the selection committee that those who entered the contest gave considerable thought to the names they submitted. For that we are grateful and we thank every one of you who entered the contest.

The selection committee consisted of the officers of the association and *Curtis* and *Verna McDowell*. We hope that our members like our choice and agree that "Keepin' Posted" describes the true purpose of our new publication.

LIFE

LINE



Because we believe in giving credit where credit is due, we are listing all of the donors to the Central Florida Square & Round Dance Association Blood Bank from May 1976 through November 1980. The report covering the donors from November 1980 through February 1981 will not be available until March. Therefore, that list will appear in a later issue.

BLOOD DONORS — May 1976 thru November 1980

Leona Lutz (6)	Thomas Smith (2)	Thomas McElroy
Corson Steiner (4)	Shirley Burke (2)	Lois Kimbrough (2)
Robert Strait	Don Lutz (4)	Wayne Kimbrough (2)
John Berger (10)	Henry Knowles (4)	Victor Clark
Loretta McAdam	Barbara Maher (4)	Hellen Mason
Robert Hetzel (2)	Olive Branneky (2)	Jane Sewell (2)
Leon Rouse (5)	John Layne	JoAnn Graber (2)
James Hamilton (2)	James Webb	Louis Lacey (3)
Rebecca Hamilton (2)	Renate Knowles	Earl Gray, Jr. (2)
William Sewell (3)	Theresa Wicklin	Warren Shenevert (2)
Carrol Wise	Joan Accordino	Billy Nobles (2)
James Divins	Sidney Blaze	Richard Bischof
Thomas Ellis (2)	Donald Stroman	Mary Bischof
Lou Ellis (5)	Roger Barter	Roland Hamel

BLOOD BANK DATA:

Donations 94
 Member Withdrawals 20
 Outdated units transferred to
 Hemophilia Association 39
 Balance 35

TIME TO REPLINISH THE BANK -

"Give the gift of Life"

(continued from page 1)

We might even dance all weekend. Plans are in the making for our dancers who like to camp and dance to have the hall on Friday night as well as Saturday. We have permission to use either the piano or the organ or both. Someone will surely be available and willing to call a few squares. Our dancers might also enjoy some ballroom dancing. It sounds like fun!

For our Potluck Supper, please bring a dish to pass and your own plates and silver. The Association will provide napkins and beverages. Dinner will begin promptly at 5:30 P.M.

ATTENTION ALL SQUARE DANCERS: _____

TIFFANY SQUARES of South Orlando is compiling a Square Dancers Cookbook and would like each of our clubs represented in it. Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with others? If so, send it with your name, address, phone number and club to: Laverne Schraudner
 1415 Waltham Avenue
 Orlando, Florida 32809

For suggested categories and specific details, please call her at 855-8679. Submit recipes as soon as possible, but no later than June 30th.

THE "PIRATES" STORY

A Nostalgic Look Back And An Eye To The Future

The unique Florida Pirates Club was organized in 1962 by John Donelly of Palm Bay, Florida. John was President of the Who Goofed Squares and he was looking for better inter-club relationships. He believed that everyone, at one time or another, secretly yearns to become a pirate or an adventurer, but few have ever been able to make their dream a reality. So he decided to bring this fantasy to life with fun and a spirit of adventure by combining the history and costumes of pirates with the colorful parties of square dancers. Thus, the Florida Pirates Club was born, and for John the idea of a Pirates Ball was a dream come true.

The first Pirates Ball was held in Eau Gallie, now part of greater Melbourne, on June 29, 1962, with one hundred costumed buccaneers whirling and twirling to the antics of Jim Rice, who called from a full rigged gallion with a mermaid bowsprit. With the honor of all good pirates at stake, stealing into squares was in order. For goofing, or conduct unbecoming to a pirate, dancers were thrown into the brig or put into stocks. The proverbial King Neptune held his court and presented "Golden Seahorse" awards to the first square to dance across the imaginary equator. He presented a similar award, the "Silver Starfish", to each dancer in the first square around the North Star.

John Donelly became Chief of the Florida Pirates with six petty officers and eighty-six Charter Members in his motley crew. Our own Mary and PeeWee Stewart were among those original Charter Members. Next John designed a Pirate Badge to be awarded



to square dancers who became members of the Florida Pirates Club. To become a

member each dancer was required to participate in a special initiation wearing a Pirate costume and a blindfold. The most memorable if sometimes frightening part of this ritual was "walking the plank" to background sounds of splashing waves under the plank, the cracking of whips, the clashing of swords, and an atmosphere of utter confusion created by those doing the initiating amid shouts of encouragement and merriment from the other dancers present. It was a fun time for everyone and the newly initiated Pirates could hardly wait until the next year when they could watch and enjoy the ceremony from the "other side". Once a dancer earned the Pirate Badge, he could add a bar each year he attended the Pirates Ball. There were twelve bars in all, each depicting a specific billet necessary to the smooth sailing of the Pirate ship — cabin boy, crewman, surgeon, sail maker, carpenter, gunnery officer, boatswain, sailing master, lieutenant, captain, and finally the Hall of Fame for attending twelve or more balls.

John recalls sailing on his imaginary Gasparilla Pirates Ship thousands of miles and raising the Jolly Roger to declare under seige such cities as Panama City, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Winter Garden, Fort Myers, Sarasota, Miami and Tampa, (just as the 165 foot pirate ship Jose Gaspar sailed boldly into Tampa on Monday, February 9, 1981, staging a mock invasion of the city with its crew of fun-loving buccaneers. Their appearance signalled the start of the annual Gasparilla Celebration recalling the legendary pirate Jose Gaspar, who pillaged the west coast of Florida two centuries ago).

By 1967 John said he was getting old and weather-worn from pirating all over the state so he turned the helm over to the Orlando Western Square and Round Dance Council, sponsored by the City of Orlando,

and designated Mary Stewart Chief Pirate. He awarded PeeWee Stewart his Sword and Helmet and assigned him the duty of transferring all the Pirate treasures from Tampa to Orlando. The first Orlando Ball in 1968 was sponsored by the Orlando Council, the Orlando Recreation Department and the Orlando Callers Guild. Eventually the Council took over full responsibility, hosted many colorful, successful balls and initiated hundreds of dancers. Each year the President of the Council served as the Chief Pirate for that year's ball. Jim McDow was the first, followed by Bill McAdams, Jim Stinson, Suz Sommerman, Chuck Mayo, Jack Tucker, Frank Hess, John Layne, Harry Cassar, John Berger, Ray Holt and Charles Schraudner. In 1978 the Central Florida Square & Round Dance Association began to co-sponsor the Balls, and in 1980 when The Council retired its flag and became inactive, The Association took over the sponsorship.

As so often happens in changing times such as these, the interest of our Central Florida dancers began to diminish in the past few years; the initiations, jail, costumes, and the whole Pirate theme somehow lost their magic.

Last year shortly before the ball, a survey designed to learn exactly how our dancers felt about continuing the Pirate Celebrations revealed that our dancers do want some type of special annual celebration. They do not particularly want to abandon all of the Pirate traditions, but the majority no longer have an interest in certain aspects of the past balls.

The 1981 Pirates Ball Committees, in an effort to please our dancers and at the same time preserve this grand old tradition, decided to try a new angle. Why not have a Pirates "Salute to America" honoring 'The American Square Dancer'? The committees voted to make this celebration a weekend affair; to rent the largest hall at Exposition Center which will comfortably accommodate

at least sixty squares; to bring back an Orlando favorite, Doc Gray, for our Friday night caller; to introduce a relatively new caller to our area, Joe Braun, for our Saturday caller; to invite the Collings as our cuers; to arrange for the traditional FREE ADMISSION to Rosie O'Grady's after the Friday night dance to dancers in square dance costumes wearing Pirate Ball ribbons; to have skits and entertainment after the Saturday night dance; to decorate the hall; to suggest that the dancers WEAR RED, WHITE AND BLUE in the true spirit of America, and to provide an atmosphere of fun and good fellowship for everyone. The Association is eager to do everything in its power to make this event a huge success.

How about it, dancers — let's make this event the biggest and best Pirates Festival ever!

CENTRAL FLORIDA SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION '80-'81 DANCE SCHEDULE

August 30, 1980

Eustis— Jack Hatfield
Dick Nordine

November 29, 1980 (HOLIDAY DANCE)

Mt. Dora— Whit Brown
Pete & Jan Shankle

January 31, 1981 (VALENTINE DANCE)

Merritt Island— Bill Marquis
Dick Nordine

March 20 & 21, 1981 (PIRATE BALL CELEBRATION)

Orlando— Doc Gray/Friday Dance
Joe Braun/Saturday
Workshop & Dance
The Collings/Friday
Dance/Saturday
Workshop & Dance

May 30, 1981 (POTLUCK SUPPER & ANNUAL ELECTIONS)

Eustis— Bob Bland
Jack Jenkins

INTRODUCING . . .

Our callers and cuers for the
Pirates Festival

Doc Gray is a talented, well-known and well-liked caller who needs no introduction to the Orlando area dancers. Doc called for our Pirates Celebration two years ago and we thoroughly enjoyed him. He has been calling for fifteen years, calls and teaches in the Bay Area and travels nationally. We'll be happy to welcome him back to Orlando.



Doc Gray



Joe Braun

Meet Joe Braun! Joe and wife Marty started square dancing in Daytona Beach in 1964 with the Dixie Squares and attended many of the early Pirates Balls. They moved to the Chicago area in 1969, and Joe started calling professionally in '71. He soon became known throughout the Midwest as the "Hat Man"; he owns at least 40 hats from all over the world, many of them gifts brought to him by his vacationing dancers. His hats are part of his act and he is very entertaining. Joe and Marty moved to Plantation, Florida, in November 1979, and they are pleased that we have invited them to our Pirates Festival. We are delighted that they can join us because Joe is an excellent caller and puts on a great show.



Virginia Colling



Torsten Colling

Virginia and Torsten Colling learned to square dance about ten years ago and started to round dance a year later. Three years ago they decided to try their hand at teaching

round dancing with Virginia doing the cuing while Torsten handles the technical end of the business. Their teamwork has paid off. Virginia started teaching in June '78 and formed their first club, the "Happy Rounders" in October '78 with five couples. Since then she has taught eight classes and now their club has thirty-five active couples. Virginia cues for the Highland Squares and the Edgewater Shipmates and teaches three nights a week.

The Collings live in Holly Hill and on January 17, 1981 they opened their own Round Dance Hall which they built and named "Colling Hall".

We are looking forward to their being with us for the Festival.

LEST WE FORGET . . .

A SIMPLE TRIBUTE
To our freed hostages
and their families

I Said a Prayer For You Today

*I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard*

*I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word!*

*I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind) -*

*I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!*

*I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day*

*To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!*

*I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small -*

*But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all!*

DROP OUT? ... NEVER!!! _____

The next time you get discouraged in any square dance class or workshop tip remember this true story, SMILE, and TRY, TRY AGAIN!

Dorothy Surratt is proof that to be a good square dancer one must first be a good listener.

She has been square dancing for three years and blind for 17 years.

But her lack of sight has not been a problem, she says, although when she first decided to take square dance classes, she wondered if her classmates and the instructor might feel uncomfortable with a blind student in the class.

But Eddie Fulps, the caller at the Southside YMCA where she took lessons, told her, "I'm game if you are."

She and her husband, J. B. Surratt, took the 20 weeks of lessons and now are regular members of the Texas Twirlers Square Dance Club and the Cowtown Cloggers. "I just can't say enough good things about how much I enjoy it (square dancing)," she said. "It's the most fun thing I've done in years."

She says she and her husband decided to take the lessons because they had been looking for an activity they could do together.

The idea of making that activity square dancing was spurred one night when they were around a group of square dancers and decided they also liked the costumes square dancers wear.

"I enjoy the quality of the social contacts we make in square dancing," Mrs. Surratt said, "but I also like the opportunity it affords me as a blind person."

She's looking for some round dancing lessons and wants to be a good clogger as well. She thinks her blindness may turn out to be an advantage in those activities, too.

Reprinted from the Fort Worth Star Telegram

NOTE OF APPRECIATION . . .

For a number of years since Don Lutz became a caller, he and Leona have been taking their children and a square or two of dancers willing to give of themselves and their time to some of the local nursing homes and convalescent centers. Don and his group of entertainers try to visit the different centers on a regular basis about once every three months and are often called for an extra visit when patient morale gets low at any of these homes.

The group tries to bring some joy and happiness into the lives of these elderly patients. It's a wonderful experience to watch these folks as their eyes light up and smiles spread across their faces as the dancing begins. Before long their toes are tapping and hands are clapping to the beat of the music as they join in the spirit of the square dance.

In the hope that we might generate more interest among our dancers in this very worthwhile community service, Don is sharing the following letter with our readers.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lutz,

The patients enjoyed your visit and good dancing so much last Saturday night. We want to express our sincere thanks to you and all the others. Please tell the children how much the patients enjoyed them.

Respectfully,
Inez Wickezer, Activity Director
Orlando Memorial Convalescent Center
January 27, 1981

On this particular evening Don shared the mike with SusanElaine Adams. If you would like to join Don and SusanElaine in this worthy cause or just fill in on an "as needed" basis, please give Don a call at 855-1248. Thank you!

CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Ray & Barbara Holt
Orlando — 677-4133

Vice President: Bob & Frances Jernigan
Titusville — 267-2721

Secretary: Bob & Carol Woodard
DeBary — 668-8241

Treasurer: Hank & Betty Bruce
Winter Park — 678-4261

READERS' CORNER

Those of you who offered specific suggestions will find all of them put to use in this issue. We appreciate your contributions. Keep them coming!

A new idea has come to us so we are giving it to our readers for their reactions. In the next issue, if our readers display enough interest, we will begin a new column, "DANCERS EXCHANGE".

With the cost of square dance attire constantly on the increase, many of our dancers who do not sew are gradually being priced out of the market. Then, too, we have dancers with square dance clothes in excellent condition, not being worn for any number of reasons, just taking up much needed closet space. Why not bring these square dancers together for their mutual benefit!

Like the idea? If so, send us a description of the square dance items you have for sale or exchange — limit two items per couple to start — no prices — just your phone number and your name. (Names will not be published).

Remember, if you like the idea, send in your listing. Without your input there can be no "DANCERS EXCHANGE" column. Deadline for the May issue — April 15, 1981!

PUBLISHED BY

Central Florida Square & Round Dance
Association
c/o Hank & Betty Bruce
1082 Golfside Drive
Winter Park, Florida 32792

PRINTED BY

GRAMAC, Inc.
54 East Main Street
Apopka, Florida 32703
886-7151
George & Rita Deschambeau

WHO ARE WE

This is the official publication of the Central Florida Square & Round Dance Association. It is published solely for the purpose of sharing square and round dance information, news, and educational material with our members and with other square dance publications. The Editor reserves the right to condense, rewrite, or omit any items submitted for publication.

As Editor I wish to thank *John Donely, Mary & PeeWee Stewart* for the material for THE "PIRATES" STORY and to all others who contributed to this issue: *Barbara & Ray Holt, John Berger, Don Lutz, Verna McDowell, Bob Bland and Carl Rod*. To my husband and to my co-worker, *Curtis McDowell*, I am deeply grateful for and most appreciative of their continuing patience, understanding and support.

Interim Editor: Betty Bruce

Design Layout and Art: Curtis McDowell

Next edition—May 1981

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Central Florida Callers Association is sponsoring a Marathon Dance on Sunday, March 29, 1981, at Slovak Gardens.

The purpose of this dance is to provide money to be used for a continuing education program for the callers within the Central Florida Callers Association.

The time schedule and dance levels will be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 2-3 P.M. | Caller Lab Basics |
| 3-4 P.M. | Mainstream & QS |
| 4-5 P.M. | Plus I |
| 5-6 P.M. | Plus II |
| 6-7 P.M. | Mainstream & QS |
| 7-8 P.M. | Plus I |
| 8-9 P.M. | Plus II |
| 9-10 P.M. | Floor Level |

Dancers, don't miss this opportunity to visit with old friends and make some new ones!